

REMARKS

Claims 41-44 are pending in this application, claims 1-40 having previously been canceled. By this Amendment, claims 41-44 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 41-43 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,667,795 to Shigemura. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Shigemura teaches a head unit comprising a head mounting portion whereupon multiple ink jet heads are mounted and a position device capable of adjusting the distance between the ink jet heads by moving the ink jet heads in the nozzle row direction such that this distance is a natural multiple of the nozzle pitch (Abstract). With reference to Fig. 16 of Shigemura, the Office Action indicates that the reference teaches features that are considered to correspond to the subject matter recited in the pending claims.

Claim 41 recites, and in like manner, claims 42-44 recite, among other features, a plurality of ejection heads arranged on a print head, each ejection head having the plurality of nozzles in the earlier range with a constant layout pitch of (D), the plurality of ejection of heads are arranged on the print head to form only a single linear row of nozzles, wherein a plurality of types of filter material are each concurrently ejected from nozzles in the single linear row of nozzles on the print head. Applicants' disclosure at paragraph [0148] indicates that when the filter material includes the three types of ink of R(red), G(green), and B(blue), a plurality of passages, for example, three passages are arranged in at least one of the plurality of ink jet heads (liquid-drop material discharge heads) 22, and the three passages allow the three types of ink of R(red), G(green) and B(blue), respectively be allowed to pass

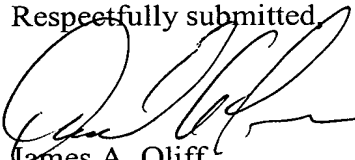
therethrough. No such feature is taught, nor can reasonably be considered to have been suggested, by Shigemura.

For at least this reason, Shigemura neither teaches, nor can it reasonably be considered to have suggested, the combinations of all of the features recited in the pending claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 41-44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Shigemura are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 41-44 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

JAO:DAT/cfr

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